

REMARKS

Claims 1-33 are currently pending in the application.

Claims 16-33 have been previously withdrawn, without prejudice.

Claim 6 has been amended herewith. Applicants maintain no new matter has been submitted by way of the instant amendment.

Claim 6 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which Applicants regard as the invention. Applicants respectfully submit this rejection has been rendered moot in light of the instant amendment, where Claim 6 has been amended to change the articles "a" to "the" as recommended by the Examiner. Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the rejection.

Claims 1-3, 5, 7-12, 14, and 15 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Cejka *et al.* (U.S. Patent No. 6,106,922).

Claims 1, 2, 5, 7, 8, 12, 13, and 15 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Rawlinson (U.S. Patent No. 4,329,196).

Claims 1, 6, 9, 10, and 15 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Zuiddam *et al.* (U.S. Patent No. 4,866,808).

Claims 4 and 13 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Cejka *et al.*

Claims 3, 4, and 11 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Rawlinson.

Rejection Under 35 USC § 102(e)

Claims 1-3, 5, 7-12, 14, and 15 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Cejka *et al.* (U.S. Patent No. 6,106,922). Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection and request withdrawal of same.

Applicants' invention provides a unitary molded, polymeric article with projecting elements, wherein said molded article is prepared from distinct first polymeric materials and second polymeric materials.

Cejka *et al.* teaches a web of material having two sides and a plurality of stems. Cejka *et al.* does not teach that the web of material is prepared from a unitary article comprising two distinct first and second polymeric materials, as provided by way of Applicants' invention. All elements of Applicants' invention are not provided by Cejka *et al.* As such, Cejka *et al.* cannot provide support for the rejection. Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of same.

Rejections Under 35 USC § 102(b)

Claims 1, 2, 5, 7, 8, 12, 13, and 15 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Rawlinson (U.S. Patent No. 4,329,196).

Applicants' invention provides a unitary molded, polymeric article with projecting elements, wherein said molded article is prepared from distinct first polymeric materials and second polymeric materials.

Rawlinson teaches a method for preparing a three dimensional laminate. Rawlinson does not teach a unitary molded, polymeric article with projecting elements, wherein said molded article is prepared from distinct first polymeric materials and second polymeric materials as provided by Applicants' invention. All elements of Applicants' invention are not provided by Rawlinson, and as such, Rawlinson will not support the rejection. Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the rejection.

Claims 1, 6, 9, 10, and 15 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Zuidamm *et al.* (U.S. Patent No. 4,866,808).

Applicants' invention provides a unitary molded, polymeric article with projecting elements, wherein said molded article is prepared from distinct first polymeric materials and second polymeric materials.

Zuidamm *et al.* teaches a rollable floor mat with a plurality of U-shaped plastic profiles. Zuidamm *et al.* does not teach a unitary molded, polymeric article with projecting elements, wherein said molded article is prepared from distinct first polymeric materials and second polymeric materials as provided by Applicants' invention. All elements of Applicants' invention are not provided by Zuidamm *et al.*, and as such, Zuidamm *et al.* will not support the rejection. Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the rejection.

Rejections Under 35 USC § 103(a)

Claims 4 and 13 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Cejka *et al.*

Applicants' invention provides a unitary molded, polymeric article with projecting elements, wherein said molded article is prepared from distinct first polymeric materials and second polymeric materials.

Cejka *et al.* teaches a web of material having two sides and a plurality of stems. Cejka *et al.* does not teach or suggest that the web of material is prepared from a three dimensional, unitary article, comprising two distinct first and second polymeric materials, as provided by way of Applicants' invention. A *prima facie* case of obviousness has not been provided by Cejka *et al.* As such, Cejka *et al.* cannot provide support for the rejection. Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of same.

Claims 3, 4, and 11 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Rawlinson.

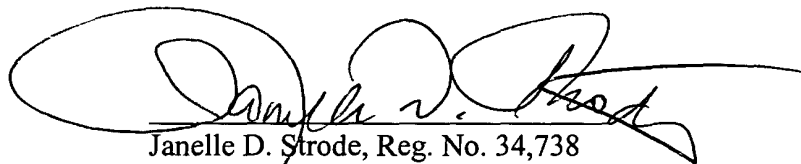
Applicants' invention provides a unitary molded, polymeric article with projecting elements, wherein said molded article is prepared from distinct first polymeric materials and second polymeric materials.

Rawlinson teaches a method for preparing a three dimensional laminate. Rawlinson does not teach or suggest a unitary molded, polymeric article with projecting elements, wherein said molded article is prepared from distinct first polymeric materials and second polymeric materials as provided by Applicants' invention. A *prima facie* case of obviousness has not been established. Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the rejection.

It is respectfully requested that the rejection of the Claims be reconsidered and Claims 1-15 be found allowable. Should the Examiner believe the issues remain outstanding, the Examiner is respectfully requested to call Applicants' undersigned attorney in an effort to resolve such issues and advance this application to issue.

Respectfully submitted,

LATHROP & GAGE L.C.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Janelle D. Strobe", is written over a horizontal line.

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Marked Up Claim

6. (Once Amended) The article according to Claim 1 wherein said base section is formed from [a] the first polymer material, said terminal parts of at least some of said projecting elements are formed from [a] the second polymer material and said base section of said projecting elements having [a] the first polymeric material at its surface and [a] the second polymeric material at its core.